

REMARKS

The Office Action rejects claims 1-14, and the Office Action notes that claims 15-33 are in condition for allowance.

Applicants thank the Examiner for notifying Applicants of the allowance of claims 15-33, and for the courtesies extended to Applicants' representative at the Interview on January 12, 2005.

Applicants cancel claims 1-14 without prejudice or disclaimer. Accordingly, claims 15-33 are pending.

Power of Attorney

Each Applicant is filing concurrently herewith an executed Power of Attorney. Entry of the three Powers of Attorney is respectfully requested.

Objection to the Specification

The Office Action objects to the Abstract because it includes an extraneous word "the invention." Applicants have deleted this term to obviate the objection. Accordingly, withdrawal of the objection is respectfully requested.

Rejection of Claims 1-2 Under 35 U.S.C. §102(b)

Claims 1-2 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by CA2089188 ~~issued to~~ (Doucey).

Applicants cancel claims 1-2 without prejudice or disclaimer. Accordingly, withdrawal of this rejection is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-2 and 10 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by DE29913231U1 ~~issued to~~ (Airmatic).

Applicants cancel claims 1-2 and 10 without prejudice or disclaimer.

Accordingly, withdrawal of this rejection is respectfully requested.

Rejection of Claims Under 35 U.S.C. §103(a)

Claims 1-2 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent 5,357,646 issued to Kim in view of Doucet.

Applicants cancel claims 1-2 without prejudice or disclaimer. Accordingly, withdrawal of this rejection is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-2 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kim in view of Airmatic.

Applicants cancel claims 1-2 without prejudice or disclaimer. Accordingly, withdrawal of this rejection is respectfully requested.

Claims 3-9 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kim in view of Doucet, and further in view of U.S. Patent 5,973,294 issued to Schatt et al. (hereinafter referred to as "Schatt").

Applicants cancel claims 3-9 without prejudice or disclaimer. Accordingly, withdrawal of this rejection is respectfully requested.

Claims 3-9 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kim in view of Airmatic, and further in view of Schatt.

Applicants cancel claims 3-9 without prejudice or disclaimer. Accordingly, withdrawal of this rejection is respectfully requested.

Claims 10-14 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kim in view of Airmatic, and further in view of U.S. Patent 5,072,486 issued to Guarascio.

Applicants cancel claims 10-14 without prejudice or disclaimer. Accordingly, withdrawal of this rejection is respectfully requested.

Summary

There being no further outstanding objections or rejections, it is respectfully submitted that the application is in condition for allowance. An early action to that effect is courteously solicited.

Finally, if there are any formal matters remaining after this response, the Examiner is requested to telephone the undersigned at (703) 887-8996 to attend to these matters.

Respectfully Submitted,

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Date

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